Safety Standards of Atomic Power Plants

3570. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing tendency in the developed countries to abandon the use of Atomic Power Plants since these are not safe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the international safety standards; and

(d) how many of them are followed in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Electricity Generation by Nuclear Energy in the world increased by about 26% during the period 1990—99 as per information available. Although there has been slowing down in nuclear power capacity addition in U.S.A., Canada and Western Europe, this is to be looked at in the context of their self sufficiency in meeting the electricity demand with a high level of per capita electricity consumption, stagnant population growth as well as easy access to other energy sources. It cannot be attributed to safety reasons. Safety in nuclear power plants are getting continuously upgraded world over to meet the emerging concerns from time to time including lessons learnt from Chernobyl and Three Mile Island incidents. The nuclear capacity addition is now centered in Asia.

(c) and (d) Most of the countries building and operating nuclear power plants have their own safety standards. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has published several safety standards which are generally accepted and followed in many countries. The nuclear safety standards followed in India are prescribed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) based on IAEA standards.

Non-Availability of Hindi Type Writer

†3571. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such offices in the Department of Atomic Energy where there is not a single Hindi typewriter;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.